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## REPORT ON INFERIOR COURTS IN SUFFOLK, MASS.

rule may have been to the conditions of knowledge on the subject formerly prevailing, it seems clear that it should now be changed so as to allow the introduction of sufficient material to enable a proper comparison of disputed writings to be made. Mr. Osborn points out that the great value of the introduction of standards of comparison lies in the fact that thus the very thing in dispute is actually before the court and jury in tangible form. The proof thus does not rest merely on the opinion of an expert, but he is able to give his reasons and to demonstrate them from the things themselves and the jury can thus judge of the value of the opinion and may themselves make the comparison. It would seem clear that this affords more satisfactory proof than the mere opinion of persons judging of the writings from memory of the general characteristics of a person's handwriting or of experts. The article is a valuable discussion of the subject.

E. L.

### The Oregon Constitution, Art. 7, Sec. 3, as Amended November 8, 1910.

—In actions at law where the value in controversy shall exceed \$20, the right of trial by jury shall be preserved, and no fact tried by a jury shall be otherwise re-examined in any court of this state, unless the court can affirmatively say there is no evidence to support the verdict. Until otherwise provided by law, upon appeal of any case to the Supreme Court, either party may have attached to the bill of exceptions the whole testimony, the instructions of the court to the jury, and any other matter material to the decision of the appeal. If the Supreme Court shall be of opinion, after consideration of all the matters thus submitted, that the judgment of the court appealed from was such as should have been rendered in the case, such judgment shall be affirmed, notwithstanding any error committed during the trial; or if, in any respect, the judgment appealed from should be changed, and the Supreme Court shall be of opinion that it can determine what judgment should have been entered in the court below, it shall direct such judgment to be entered in the same manner and with like effect as decrees are now entered in equity cases on appeal to the Supreme Court; provided, that nothing in this section shall be construed to authorize the Supreme Court to find the defendant in a criminal case guilty of an offense for which a greater penalty is provided than that of which the accused was convicted in the lower court."

See 115 Pacific Reporter, p. 418. *Wills v. George Palmer Lumber Co.*

GEORGE B. WINSTON, Judge, District Court, Anaconda, Mont.

**Report of the Commission on the Inferior Courts of the County of Suffolk, Massachusetts.**—The commission appointed to investigate the inferior courts of Suffolk County, Massachusetts, and to consider the expediency of revising the judicial system of the county, reports in part as follows:

"The prevalent complaint against the law's delays can have no application to the inferior courts of Suffolk County. They are all fully abreast of their work in point of time. Civil causes can be tried upon the issues within a month of the date of the writ. Criminal cases are in the large majority of cases finally disposed of on the return day of the summons, or the day following arrest. Requests for continuance generally come from the defendant, and usually involve only a few days.

"The element of delay touches the work of these courts only in its relation to the appeal system, which is dealt with later herein.